



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
**Taxation and Revenue Department**  
An Equal Opportunity Employer

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**Tax Fraud Investigations**  
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**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*  
**Jan Goodwin**  
*Secretary*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Former Motor Vehicle Division Employee Pleads Guilty to Embezzlement**

**Albuquerque** – On August 27, 2007, Rita I. Cordova, a former New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division employee, pleaded guilty to two third degree felony counts of embezzlement. Cordova entered the plea before Second Judicial District Court Judge J. Michael Kavanaugh. Judge Kavanaugh approved the plea agreement and sentenced Cordova to six years incarceration, but agreed to a conditional discharge of the sentence and ordered Cordova to five years of supervised probation. Additionally, Judge Kavanaugh ordered Cordova to make restitution to the State of New Mexico in the amount of \$16,420. Cordova must also attend counseling for gambling addicts and any other treatment program recommended by her probation officer. Cordova admitted to having a gambling addiction.

Cordova was indicted in 2006 on two third degree and six fourth degree felony counts of embezzlement as well as eight counts of failure to comply with specific requirements to deposit State monies – all fourth degree felonies. Cordova was also charged with one count of larceny over \$100 but no more than \$250, and one count of tampering with evidence.

Cordova was alleged to have embezzled \$16,420 in currency between February 27, 2006 and March 10, 2006 from the Albuquerque Motor Vehicle Division field office where she worked.

The case was a result of an investigation by the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division. In addition to tax fraud investigations, the Division conducts internal investigations through its Internal Investigations Bureau.

To report internal fraud, waste, and abuse within the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department or the Motor Vehicle Division, call the Internal Investigations hotline at 1-866-750-4833. To report suspected tax fraud against the State of New Mexico, call the Tax Fraud Hotline at 1-866-457-6789.

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